



June 9, 2011

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: GN Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

More and more each day, economic development and workforce relocation decisions are based, in part, on the availability of broadband in a community. Companies and people are not just attempting to access broadband in more heavily populated areas – but also in more remote areas that may include industrial parks and residential areas away from the core of the city.

Over the years, the Shoals area has heavily lobbied communications services providers to expand the reach of their networks. AT&T responded earlier this year with 3G wireless technology in areas both north and south of the river and continues to deploy its U-verse IP technology for voice, video and Internet. Now, the company has proposed to acquire T-Mobile, committing to extend 4G LTE wireless broadband technology to 97% of the nation's population, including many rural areas throughout the country.

We have seen the benefits of how wireless broadband availability keeps our community as competitive as possible in attracting industry and jobs. Access to next generation mobile broadband technology also enhances quality of life and helps our community keep pace with the rest of the country.

The Shoals Area Chamber of Commerce strongly supports this proposed acquisition as another major step toward the nation's goal of universal broadband.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Sharp".

Rick Sharp
Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Holt".

Steve Holt
President

20 Hightower Place
P.O. Box 1331
Florence, AL 35631-1331
(256) 764-4661
Fax (256) 766-9017
www.shoalschamber.com